

REMARKS

The Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 14, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,631,124 to Koorapaty et al. ("Koorapaty"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Each of the claims of the present invention includes the feature of variably allocating the number of contiguous sub-slots allocated to one time slot, within a transmission, from the number allocated to another time slot.

Visually, it can be said that the pattern of time slot/sub-slot allocation in the present invention may produce irregular shaped transmission blocks (e.g., L-shaped) (see FIG. 1, transmission 127 contains one sub-slot within time slot 111 but two sub-slots within time slot 112; see also transmission 129 and 130). No such allocations are disclosed or suggested in Koorapaty.

Because Koorapaty does not disclose each feature of the claims, it cannot anticipate the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-5, 7-9, 14, 15 and 17.

The Section 103 Rejections

Claims 6, 10-13, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on a combination of Koorapaty and one of three other references.

Applicants note that these claims are dependent on either claim 1 or 15 and are, therefore, patentable over each combination of Koorapaty and another

of the cited references for the reasons stated above, and because none of the references make up for the deficiencies of Koorapaty.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 6, 10-13, 18 and 19.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

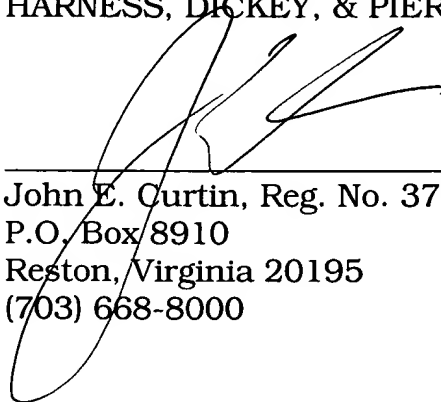
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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